

# **MODULE 4b**

# **EXTRICATION**

## **Student Guide**

# EXTRICATION

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**Purpose of this module.** The purpose of this module is to provide you, the recruit firefighter, a basic understanding of the techniques used for safe and effective extrication. This training is mandated by state regulation for all entry level firefighters.



**Scope of this module.** During this module we will discuss, demonstrate, and conduct practical exercises on extrication tools. You will have a practical exercise later in the course.

**Objectives.** By the end of this module, you will:

1. Identify the role of a Firefighter at a motor vehicle accident where extrication of victims is necessary.
2. Identify the types of tools and power sources.
3. Understand and demonstrate cribbing procedures.
4. Demonstrate proper and safe operation of vehicle extrication tools and equipment.

**Conditions.** The instruction you receive in this module is intended for firefighter recruits, meaning, it is our assumption that you know little or nothing about firefighting. Instruction will take place here in a classroom environment. We will use lecture, conference, and practical exercises to deliver your instruction.

## **Extrication From Motor Vehicles.**

Motor vehicle crashes result in the most common rescue situation that today's firefighters respond to. The most valuable tools used at vehicle crash incidents are knowledge, experience, and skill. Extrication can be defined as "to free, release, or disentangle a patient from entrapment." Operations at an extrication incident should follow a plan of action.

### **A common plan of action can include:**

Scene size up

- What do you see?
- What is going on?
- Is anyone in the vehicle?
- Are there electrical lines down?
- Is there any fuel leaking?

### **Vehicle stabilization.**

- Turn the vehicle motor off.
- Secure the vehicle from rolling and rocking.



**Accessing the patient – qualified person.**

**Disentanglement of the patient.**

**Removal of the patient.**



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## Introduction to Extrication Tools

Range from basic to specialized tools.

- Extrication tools are operated manually or by gasoline engine or by electric or air-driven motor.
- Spreaders used to push, pull, rip, tear and smash.
- Cutters used to cut various materials.
- Rams used for pushing or pulling.
- Combination tools spread and cut.



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## Vehicle Stabilization.

- Used to secure the vehicle from rolling and/or rocking
- Basic cribbing placement just behind the front wheels and just in front of the rear wheels.
- Cribbing is a box
- The box provides strength



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## Disentangling the Patient.

- Disentanglement involves the actual removal of the patient from the vehicle.
- The method chosen is based on the patient's condition.
- There are several options for disentangling a patient:
  - Open the door
  - Break tempered glass
  - Force the door
  - Displace the seat
  - Remove the windshield
  - Remove the steering wheel
  - Displace the dash
  - Displace the roof



**Review** – During this module we have discussed some basic information about extrication of victims from vehicles. We have discussed:

Identification of the role of a Firefighter at a motor vehicle accident where extrication of victims is necessary.

Identification of the types of tools and power sources.

Cribbing and cribbing procedures.

Identification of proper and safe operation of vehicle extrication tools and equipment.

**Closing** – As a firefighter, you will be called upon to rescue victims of vehicular accidents by use of extrication tools and techniques. We have briefly touched upon some of them here. You will learn more advanced techniques in future classes. Learning to extricate victims quickly and safely can mean the difference between life and death of the victim and the safety of the yourself and your fellow firefighters.